

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants respectfully request that the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 27 and continuing to page 12, line 22 of the substitute specification filed by Applicants on July 23, 2007 be replaced with the following paragraph, which shows all additions and deletions being made by this Amendment:

The chamber operates under continuous (or plug) flow principles. In use, food waste or other putrescible organic waste is introduced into the chamber (1) through the loading hatch (9) onto an existing composting mass of previously introduced waste. The wastes may be introduced with an absorbent or absorbent material such as wood shavings or sawdust. The chamber (1) is preferably filled to a level just above the spreader bar(s) (21). The loading hatch (9) (and discharge hatch (8)) is then closed and the composting process commenced by activating the electronic control mechanism at the control box (37). Composted product may be removed from the chamber through the discharge hatch (8) to create additional space in the lower region of the chamber (1). The removal / discharge of composted product allows the composting mass to move lower into the chamber (1) under the force of gravity and mechanical agitation, creating space in the upper region of the composting chamber for the addition of more waste material. ~~The~~ One or more distribution or spreader bar(s) (21), blades (23, 25, and 27), and mixing bar(s) which are mounted to the rotatable shaft (22) rotate in unison once the chamber is sealed and the composting process activated at the control box (37). The rotation, and direction of rotation, of the rotatable shaft (22) is operated automatically via an electronic timing mechanism so as to operate throughout the day for short periods of time. The rotation, and direction of rotation, of the rotatable shaft can be manually or automatically operated via the control box (37). In operation, the spreader bar(s) (21) mixes and spreads the recently loaded waste material evenly above the cutting blades (23-28). The blades (23-28) cooperate to form a "size reduction zone" through which all waste material must pass and which reduces the particle/piece size of the waste material, and destroys any containers or packaging present so as to expose the waste material to the mechanical and biological processes within the chamber (1). That is, the size reduction increases the surface area for microbial decomposition of the waste material, and results in more rapid composting. Further mixing and agitation of waste material occurs at various levels throughout the composting chamber (1).